

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. The amendment introduces no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendment and the following remarks is respectively requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Pickett in the January 9, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance as agreed during the January 9 personal interview; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments clarify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) overcome an issue of form raised in the final rejection; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to a rejection first asserted in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended to obviate this rejection. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite, among other features wherein pockets for receiving dies are formed on both sides of at least one of the plurality of strips. Agreement was reached during the personal interview that this amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of the pending claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability regarding claims 1-15 and 17-19. Those claims are indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended in light of this indication of allowability and the agreement reached during the January 9 personal interview with the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 and 17-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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